



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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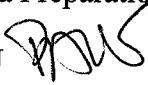
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JOHN F. KRATTLI
Acting County Counsel

March 21, 2012

TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: PATRICK A. WU 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Peter Ngo, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. KC 060 406

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

PAW:cjs

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Peter Ngo, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.

Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. KC 060 406, in the amount of \$135,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an employee of the Sheriff's Department.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Peter Ngo, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	KC060406
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court – East District
DATE FILED	July 1, 2011
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 135,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Melissa M. Thom, Esq. Younger & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Robert B. Reagan Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit was filed by Peter Ngo and Tiffany Ngo and their minor children, et al., seeking compensation for damages for personal injuries, which resulted from a multi-vehicle collision including a Sheriff's patrol vehicle.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a contribution of \$135,000 toward a full and final settlement of the case is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 15,066.50
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

Case Name: Peter Ngo, et al. v. County of Los Angeles



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	Saturday, September 12, 2009; approximately 11:47 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><u>Peter Ngo, et al. v. County of Los Angeles</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan No. 2011-030</p> <p>On Saturday, September 12, 2009, at approximately 11:47 a.m., a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff was driving a standard, black and white County-owned patrol vehicle south on White Avenue, north of Berkeley Avenue, Pomona, when he lost control of the vehicle, entered a left turn lane, and struck several stationary, occupied vehicles.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The plaintiff claims damages for injuries he sustained in the traffic collision.

This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the Pomona Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Their investigations concluded that the deputy sheriff caused the collision by driving at an unsafe speed for roadway conditions, a violation of California Vehicle Code section 22360.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had relevant policies and procedures/protocols in effect at the time of this incident.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's training curriculum addresses the circumstances which occurred in this incident.

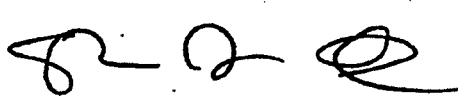
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's administrative review revealed employee misconduct. Appropriate administrative action was taken.

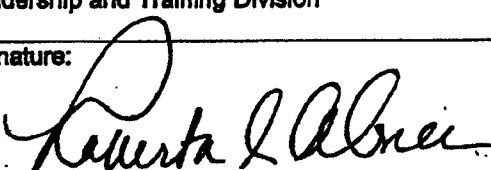
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance).

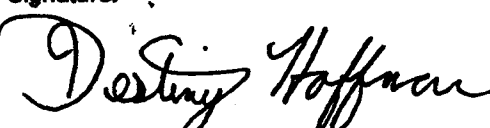
- ☐ Potentially has Countywide implications.
- ☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- ☒ Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Shaun J. Mathers, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 1/9/12

Name: (Department Head) Roberta A. Abner, Chief Leadership and Training Division	
Signature: 	Date: 01/12/12

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: Destiny Hoffman	
Signature: 	Date: 1/31/2012

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